REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 24, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and Applicants note with appreciation the identification of allowed subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-8 and added claims 9-20. Claims 9-20 are pending in the application. Claims 9, 15 and 19 are independent.

The Examiner objected to the abstract as well as the disclosure as containing informalities. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the abstract, and have further provided a clean copy incorporating the changes on a separate sheet attached hereto. The informalities in the specification noted by the Examiner have also been corrected, as well as others identified upon review including the absence of headings. Finally, proposed drawing changes have been submitted to set forth in the drawings all of the claimed elements.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,378,390 to Yoshida et al. ("Yoshida"). Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner rejected claim 3 as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,972,167 to Hayasaka et al. ("Hayasaka"), and rejected claim 5 as being unpatentable over Yoshida. The Examiner objected to

claims 6 and 7 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but stated that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 is allowed.

With the cancellation of claims 1-8, the rejections are technically moot. However, with respect to new claims 9-20, Applicants provide the following remarks.

As set forth in new claim 9, the present invention is directed to a paste unit for a bottom guide device for gluing star seal bottom bags or bottom warps. The paste unit includes a glue reservoir, a metering roller connected with the glue reservoir, a glue application roller adjacent the metering roller, a making roller connected to the glue application roller which transfers glue from the glue application roller to the bottom warps or the star seal bottoms, and drive mechanisms assigned to the rollers. The drive mechanisms include a drive motor which activates the axis of the metering roller to adjust a circumference speed of such metering roller independently of the glue application roller and making roller for controlling the glue application amount. This is not shown or suggested by Yoshida.

Yoshida discloses an apparatus for applying a coating of high-viscosity material on a metal strip using a roll 303 having a

grooved surface as a pick-up roll. Through the grooves and control of the speed of the roll 303, the problem in the prior art of picking up a high-viscosity coating material when the roll is rotating at a high speed is overcome (see column 1, lines 43-50; column 4, lines 42-50).

While Yoshida does mention that the ratio of the rotation speed of the grooved roll 303 to that of the running speed of the metal strip being coated (column 3, lines 62-66) may vary from 1 to 1.3, there is nothing in Yoshida that suggests controlling the circumference speed of a metering roller *independently of the application roller and making roller* for controlling a coating, i.e., glue, application amount, as set forth in claim 9. This independent adjustment can be used to influence the sealing effect of the metering roller, a benefit identified in the present specification at page 2, lines 21-24, but not foreseen or suggested by the prior art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 9 is patentable over Yoshida, either alone or in combination with Hayasaka. Favorable consideration and allowance of claim 9 is therefore requested.

Claims 10-14 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the

subject matter contained therein. More particularly, claims 13 and 14 correspond with claims 6 and 7, respectively, and are in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter therein.

New claim 15 corresponds with claim 8, having been rewritten to conform with U.S. practice while retaining the substantive content thereof, and is therefore in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowed subject matter.

Claims 16-18 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein. More particularly, activation of the drive mechanisms using a control device that adjusts the roller circumference speeds and aligns them with one another is not shown in the prior art and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13 (which corresponds with original claim 6). The method by which the control device, in adjusting the roller circumference speeds, starts with a pre-adjusted circumference speed of the making roller is also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14 (corresponding with original claim 7). Finally, the step in claim 18 of adjusting the circumference speed of the metering

roller to obtain a sealing effect is not shown in the prior art, and is supported in the specification at page 2, lines 21-24.

New method claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons as already discussed in connection with apparatus claim 9, along with claim 20 dependent thereon.

With the amendments made herein and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 22, 2004
HBJ:SCB

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Abstract

A paste unit and method of glue metering therein for a bottom guide device for star seal bottom bags, which are formed from tube sections, for gluing of bottom warps or star seal bottom bags. The paste unit includes a glue reservoir a metering roller connected with the glue reservoir, a glue application roller which may be connected to the glue reservoir, and a making roller connected to the glue application roller which transfers glue from the application roller to the bottom warps or the star seal bottoms. Drive mechanisms assigned to the above listed rollers enable the circumference speed of the glue application roller and of the making roller to be adjusted independently of one another.